

ADVANTAGES OF DIRECT PRIMARY NOMINATIONS.

System Proposed for Connecticut Now in Use in One or Another Form in Third of States of Union--Voters of 26 States Nominate United States Senators Directly--Interesting Statement Made by Judge John H. Perry of State Commission on Direct Primaries.

The statements and explanations were as follows:

FIRST DIRECT PRIMARY. The first direct primary election of any importance in the United States was held in Crawford county, Pennsylvania (in which is the city of Meadville), in the year of 1860, and that ended passed in the Republican County convention there in 1860.

This was of course purely voluntary and determined the nominees of the Republican party only.

Several attempts were made to return to the convention system, but the electors having had a taste of freedom refused to return.

This voluntary system of direct nomination spread slowly in the country and mostly through the South, but did not become the subject of mandatory laws until 1899 when, after a study of its beneficial results as practiced elsewhere, the County of Hennepin, Minnesota, in which is the city of Minneapolis, secured the passage of a law making the nomination of county officers by direct primary obligatory upon the principal parties.

Similar local laws were enacted in other states, but it was not until 1902 that we find a wide law applicable to practically all elective officers from governor down. This was passed in Mississippi in that year. Thereafter direct primary legislation has been proposed with increasing frequency in a rapidly increasing number of states until two-thirds of the states of the Union now have the direct primary as a part of their constitution.

MANDATORY IN THESE STATES.

1. States having mandatory laws covering practically all officers:

Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin.

2. States having optional laws covering practically all officers:

Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee. (The Michigan law has been adopted for state officers and by most localities in the state.)

3. States having mandatory laws covering practically all except state officers:

Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania.

4. States having mandatory laws covering certain localities or officers:

California, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island.

In addition to these practically all of the southern states have laws providing direct primaries for nearly all nominations.

About one-third of the states of the Union contain about one-half of the population of the country employ the direct primary system for most of their elective officers.

Including the southern states where party rules require direct nominations about one-half of the states are using the direct method. Almost one-third of the states have laws covering direct primary for certain localities or make the system optional.

In another third no provision is made for nominations by direct vote.

The movement is sweeping the country with a rapidity almost incredible when the opposition which it has inevitably met has been so small.

NEW ENGLAND LAGGARD.

New England lags behind with no good reason to be proud of her reluctance, but the reform will as surely prevail as did the similarly opposed secret ballot laws of recent years.

That the voter should individually nominate as directly as he elects his public servants is a principle which is to be long without expression in the statute book after the voter stops to think and he is stopping for that purpose in ever increasing numbers.

No state after once trying the method in any form has ever taken a single backward step. The exception of Montana in 1907 repealed a law passed in 1905 which provides an optional direct primary for certain county officers and delegates to the general assembly.

While it is always possible and frequently easy to find persons who know any amount of fatal objections to a direct primary law, it is equally intelligent and equally intelligent to the present method are rather numerous and quite as plain spoken.

The best test of the value of a law is that while constantly criticized it still remains upon the statute books and this is pre-eminently true of direct primary laws everywhere.

It is not claimed that they always nominate the best men. No law or practice ever did or ever will. The present one certainly does not always accomplish that millennial result. It is only claimed that with a direct primary law every single elector may more certainly than in any other known way have as much voice as any other elector in nominating his officers. The fundamental principle of democracy is that the government shall be not the ideally best attainable but that which the most people want. This direct primaries bring about a more direct and more intelligent method and that is their object. Let the people into the kitchen and living rooms of their political house instead of leaving them to the top story and the attic.

BELIEVE IN PEOPLE.

The commission desires to go on record as having supreme confidence in the electors of the State of Connecticut and as desiring to make it as easy as possible for every one of them to have as much voice as every other one in selecting its officers.

An officer or a representative nominated in this way is answerable only to the people and not to a nominating machine.

An attempt in many of these primary laws to modify the constitutional provision for the choice of U. S. Senators by the electors of the State is a feature and an eloquent sign of the times.

Referendum votes have been taken upon the subject during recent years in the states of California, Nevada and Illinois. In each case the proposition that U. S. Senators be elected by the people has prevailed by an enormous majority.

U. S. SENATORS DIRECTLY.

Senators are now practically nominated by the people in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oregon, Illinois, Wisconsin, Washington, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, New Jersey, Montana, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma and Michigan.

The House of Representatives has five times since 1895 passed a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment for the election of senators by the people, and a Senate committee once reported such a measure. Twenty-four state legislatures have taken action favoring popular election, and

a convention of delegates from several states recently been held in Iowa on the invitation of its general assembly to consider how best to bring about that result. It has permanently organized a "Joint Interstate Senatorial Amendment Convention."

It is not improbable, however, that direct primaries will first solve the problem.

OBJECTIONS RAISED.

The principal objections made to a direct primary law are four in number.

First. That it would give the newspapers an undesirable influence over the public mind.

Second. That it would impair a right of the country towns.

Third. That it would end party organization.

Fourth. That it entails an expense which would deprive poor men of the opportunity to run for office.

We are at a loss to understand why the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared. Nothing else in the world escapes the influence of the press, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared. Nothing else in the world escapes the influence of the press, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared.

The press should be free to praise or blame or be silent has been thought of as a desirable thing in all free countries that the laws ensuring that freedom are the most jealously guarded of all upon the statute books. A newspaper has no more influence than a public man, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared. Nothing else in the world escapes the influence of the press, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared.

Newspapers never blindly follow one another in mistakes, nor often in any direction, and it is not public and open talk, but private suggestion that is really dangerous. If the arguments which influence convention nominations could be made as public as the press, the objection to them would largely disappear. If a candidate dislikes the statements or the silence of a newspaper, the remedy is to make his own statements as public as the press, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared. Nothing else in the world escapes the influence of the press, and the influence of the press upon nominations by direct primaries should be feared.

The second objection is oftentimes heard from persons who are not residents of small towns and whose real interest is in the city. It is explained upon other grounds than interest in town welfare. Therefore, we are not sure whether the towns themselves will think the objection to their real interest at heart or not. Most of those who talk in favor of direct primaries are citizens of country towns and intelligent defenders of town prerogatives, and these men scoff at the idea that the country town has anything to fear from direct primaries, and claim that it has everything to gain that in no other way can it so well defend itself against all efforts to exploit it. The Connecticut town is naturally jealous of its own prerogatives, and we know that nothing causes greater alarm than a claim of danger to them, whether that claim be prompted by a disinterested public interest or not, and so we address ourselves very briefly to its consideration.

The claim, of course, means that the nominations which are to be accomplished by a direct vote will no longer be the product of conventions, where each town in the district has a voice, and hitherto had a voice with every other town. These voices, however, are not equally potent, because nearly half of the towns in this State have no voice in the principal conventions but half as many delegates as the other towns, although the first named towns are often the largest, and representation by population is to a certain degree allowed also, while, in addition to all of this, Senatorial districts are frequently represented by the towns of the district.

The way to stop appealing expenditures of the present day would be to prohibit by law anything more than very moderate payments to candidates for office, and the voters of the party really to decide who shall represent them as candidates.

The fourth objection that direct primaries are a reform which is in harmony with the spirit of our institutions and it is difficult to see how any party man, however earnest in his partisanship, can oppose the right of the voters of the party really to decide who shall represent them as candidates.

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Who hangs himself in the chimney should not complain of smoke.—German Proverb.

GOOD CLOTHES PROMOTE HEALTH.

So Says Famous London Specialist—Change Your Suit and be Rid of "Blues"

ANY OLD CLOTHES WILL NEVER DO

Don't Expect Man Out West Who Never Saw You to Give Satisfaction.

A famous London nerve specialist is responsible for the statement that good clothes greatly promote the ease and comfort of the wearers and in consequence result in better health. Anyone who gives minute consideration to the thought will readily realize its value. How often one feels tired and exhausted and sort of "in the dumps" after a hard day's work with possible disappointments, the condition almost bordering on "the blues," to find perfect relief the minute they don a change of clothing. Clothes play a most important part in the great drama of life, and the actor of the stage the better they are the more applause they win. Let your clothes represent you creditably at all times. This you can't expect to do unless you boast of a good tailor. Don't ever let yourself be argued into thinking that some manufacturer out west or elsewhere who has never set eyes on you can make you a suit you can intelligently call satisfactory. Ready-made clothes are built by the thousands—built for every race, creed and color of people and if you stopped to maturely consider what this means, you would always feel ill at ease with one of such suits on your back. There's a mighty pile of satisfaction in being able to say "My tailor is So-and-So."

This means you are going to have an exact duplicate of your suit it's a ready-made one—but when your tailor has provided you with a garment you know you have an individual style and that it fits because it was built solely for you along your own measurements. You know you will have once completed, never to be ripped and chopped up in an unsuccessful attempt to right a wrong. First decide on having a merchant tailor make your spring suit and then decide on that tailor being Wheeler, at 1042 Main street. There are plenty of good reasons why this is the best way to create new ideas and exclusive styles and whose close connection with New York and London style shops particularly New York, is to be a man's man's tailor. The new patterns are awaiting your approval.

CONVENTIONS PRESERVED.

State conventions are preserved and they declare the party platform and nominate the party officers, Comptroller and Secretary of State.

Provision is made for independent nominations (outside of parties) by petition after the primary result is ascertained.

This is done in other states. This explanation of the proposed law is necessarily very brief.

The act should be obtained and studied and if passed the voters will finally come to their own.

CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

How the Debt Was Collected.

In the home of a certain influential family they arose one morning to find that no breakfast had been prepared, even the kitchen fire had not been lighted. Upon investigation the cook had discovered peacefully reclining in bed.

"Are you ill?" inquired the mistress. "Not at all. I feel quite well," was the surprising response, but still no persuasion would induce her to arise.

After a time the doctor was sent for. He put to her his usual questions, but the girl insisted that she felt perfectly well.

"If, as you say, you are not ill," said the man of pills and potions, "then tell me in confidence why you won't get up and go to work."

"Well," said the girl resolutely, "these people owe me \$25, and I won't stir until they pay it."

"Do you think you'll get it quicker by staying in bed?" asked the doctor. "I most certainly do," she replied, with a gleam of the eye that expressed determination to fight it out on that line if it took all summer.

The doctor, advancing, said: "Roll over and stay there. That's the only way you'll get it. They owe me \$30."—National Magazine.

Marriage in Japan.

A Japanese husband is allowed only one wife, but to marry is sometimes more a rank and file matter than with us. Either the husband must be formally adopted into the family of the wife or the wife into the family of the husband, the couple being absorbed into one family and subject to its discipline. As a rule, this custom weighs more heavily on the bride than on the husband, for she must not only obey her husband, but every member of his family of an older generation than himself; hence a young woman often longs for old age, so that she may wield authority over the younger generations. To bring about a marriage in Japan an intermediary is appointed, whose duty it is to introduce the parties and to look to every arrangement of the wedding. He remains through life the guide, philosopher and friend of the married couple, who refer all matters, all misunderstandings, to his counsel.—Pearson's.

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The conventions themselves are retained and all other state officers are still to be nominated in them just as heretofore.

It is impossible to conceive of a candidacy for any one of the three specified positions which all the citizens would favor or oppose while all the smaller towns opposed or favored it. The lines never have been and never could be drawn in any such way as this.

Therefore we believe that by permitting every elector wherever he resides to have as much voice in nominating as in electing his officers the smaller towns will give up nothing which has been of any real advantage to them or anything which has ever been consistently acted upon, although under party rules they have had the purely theoretical ability by complete agreement and combination to control the matter.

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The plan has been under extensive trial now for several years and no such result is anywhere apparent. Entirely competent and disinterested observers emphatically assert that the contrary is true. On principle it certainly should be true, for whatever makes one rank and file more contented with their participation in party action ought to make them better party men. Under such a law as we propose there is still enough work for party machinery to do to keep it as bright as ever. If these laws had wrought the party injury which is sometimes prophesied they would have been repealed long ago, for nothing is ever more carefully attended to in legislation than party interest.

Governor Hughes in his recent inaugural well says that "direct" primaries promote true party leadership by making it less susceptible to misuse and more accord with general party sentiment. By increasing the direct influence of the party voters their participation in party affairs will be encouraged. It will make the elective officer more independent of those who would control his action for their selfish advantage, and enable him to appeal directly to his constituency upon the basis of faithful service. It cannot fail, in the main, to prove a strong barrier against the efforts of party managers to determine the selection of candidates to pervert administration to the service of privilege or to secure immunity for lawbreaking.

It is a reform which is in harmony with the spirit of our institutions and it is difficult to see how any party man, however earnest in his partisanship, can oppose the right of the voters of the party really to decide who shall represent them as candidates.

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